

Dry Men to Guard Against Fire Peril

Newark News 1/25/30 Brown Orders Them to Cooperate with City Department When Dismantling Stills

Federal prohibition agents were instructed today to cooperate with the Newark Fire Department in the destruction of stills. Criticism was voiced yesterday by Fire Commissioner Kenlan that several fires had resulted from the agents' failure to take proper precautions.

While William J. Calhoun, prohibition administrator, pointed out that the wrecking crews were not employed by the government, but by private contractors, orders were given by Walter E. Brown, assistant administrator in charge of enforcement, to have agents take precautions.

In his order Mr. Brown said: "We have been notified that the fire commissioner of the City of Newark found occasion to criticize this office, due to the fact that several fires have started while dismantling stills. Please remember that the safety of life and property is paramount to all other phases of the work. If there is any doubt in your mind as to any particular hazard, please call the nearest fire-house and they will be glad to assign a fireman to assist in supervision of destruction."

Commissioner Kenlan said yesterday that firemen would be assigned to the dismantling of stills to see that proper precautions were taken. He criticized the use of torches in the plants and the running of alcohol and other inflammable materials into gutters and sewers.